



May 23, 2005



Ten-year maximum sentence for felon who shot at police officers in a cruiser

A federal judge has sentenced **Carlos Gomes**, 22, of Providence, to ten years in federal prison – the statutory maximum – for being a felon in possession of a firearm. In January 2004, Gomes fired a gun at two Providence Police officers in a cruiser.

United States Attorney Robert Clark Corrente announced the sentence, which U.S. District Court Judge William E. Smith imposed on May 20 in U.S. District Court, Providence.

In January, Gomes, of 36 Woodmont Street, who has prior drug convictions, pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm. At the plea hearing, Assistant U.S. Attorney Richard W. Rose said that the government could prove that, on January 9, 2004, Gomes ran toward a police cruiser on Berkshire Street and fired a round that lodged in the front door on the passenger side, where Officer James Barros was sitting.

Officers Barros and Lucio Andreozzi, who had just driven a victim home to Berkshire Street in an unrelated crime, chased Gomes on foot. When Gomes turned toward the officers, they fired at him but he continued to flee. The officers found Gomes hiding between parked cars, arrested him, and retrieved a .25 caliber pistol that had a cartridge jammed in the chamber.

Providence Police and the **Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives** investigated the case. Assistant U.S. Attorney Richard W. Rose prosecuted it under **Project Safe**

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Neighborhoods, a Department of Justice initiative against gun crimes. Under Project Safe Neighborhoods, the U.S. Attorney's Office, working with Providence Police, ATF, the Rhode Island Attorney General's Office, and other agencies, aggressively prosecutes federal firearms offenses in an effort to incarcerate those responsible for gun violence and deter others from committing gun crimes. Since 2001, federal firearms prosecutions in Rhode Island have more than doubled and gun offenders have been sentenced to a total of more than 600 years in federal prison.

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Contact: 401-709-5032

Thomas.connell@usdoj.gov